GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2540
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2000
PRODUCTION OF COAL
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;ZORA SINGH MANN

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the coal produced in the country is mixed with ash;

(b) if so, the percentage of ash found in coal;

(c) whether the Government have allowed several industries of the country to import coal owing to the poor quality coal mixed with ash; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (N.T.SHANMUGAM)

(a)&(b) Yes Sir. Due to its nature of origin and formation, Indian coal inherently contains high percentage of ash. The ash percentage of coking coal ranges upto 35%. In case of non coking coal, the ash plus moisture together ranges upto 55%.

(c)&(d) Coal is under Open General Licence(OGL). At present there is no restriction on import of coal. Consumers are importing coal, particularly coking coal and superior quality non-coking coal on account of inadequate availability of such coal from indigenous sources. Import of coal is also resorted to because of the present level of customs duty and railway freight make such imports cost competitive per unit of calorific value on certain locations. The total coal imported during 1999-2000 was provisionally estimated as 17.5 million tonnes.